

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 30 JANUARY 2005

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on Echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

SILENT KEY The Durban Amateur Radio Club regrets to announce the passing away of Andrew Lynn Brown, ZS5BH, on 24 December 2004 at the age of 85 years. Andrew was born in East London and became interested in radio while at school and he was mentored by the Riefenbergs who owned a radio shop in the city. He passed his Morse Test and then joined the South African Air Force and was assigned to 40 Squadron where he was in radio communications. After WW2 he was accepted at UCT where he trained to be a Doctor and he operated as ZS2CO from the UCT residences. He graduated in 1951 and moved to Durban in 1959. He went to England to further his studies and graduated in Radiology and Oncology. He received the ZS5BH call sign. Andrew was extremely active over the years and his numerous QSL cards proved this. He moved to a complex when he turned 81 and was ingenious with his hidden antennas and operated until the end. He will be sorely missed. Condolences to all his relatives and friends. (PAUSE). In the news today: SOUTH AFRICAN RAE MANUAL AVAILABLE SUMMITS ON THE AIR (SOTA) AMSAT NA PRESIDENT CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS depends on clubs and individuals for news of interest to radio amateurs. Please place your news items on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday pre-ceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English. SOUTH AFRICAN RAE MANUAL AVAILABLE A very easy to use and well written Radio Amateurs' Exam manual has been created by Andrew Roos, ZS1AN. This 220 plus page manual covers everything you will need to know to get started in Amateur Radio and to study and pass the Radio Amateurs' Exam. The manual, which is 952 kb in size, can be downloaded from the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za/public/licences/rae.asp#Tutorial. It is in PDF format. Printed copies will soon be available from the SARL bookshop.

SUMMITS ON THE AIR (SOTA) SOTA is an international programme that encourages amateur radio operation from the summits of hills and mountains. Activators are people who transmit from the summits. Chasers are the people

who contact the activators. SWLs can also participate by logging the QSOs between activators and chasers. For each of the 3 groups there are guidelines and awards. This information can be found at www.sota.org.uk and the South African specific information at www.qsl.net/sotasa. There are more than 300 qualifying summits in the RSA.

The role of the activator, the person who takes the station to the summit, is summed up in this week's bulletin. Choose a qualifying summit, obtain the landowner's permission and use legitimate access routes. Operation from vehicles is not permitted and the method of final access must be "person powered", e.g. hiking, mountain biking. The station must be set up within 25 m vertical distance from the summit. You must carry all equipment to the summit. You must operate from a portable power source like batteries, solar cells. Fossil fuel based generators are not allowed, you share the summit with other hikers. At least four QSOs must be made for you to claim your activator points. You should exchange call signs, reports and the SOTA reference number. QSOs through repeaters do not count. QSOs with others on the same summit do not count. Activator points can only be claimed by the holder of the call sign used on the summit. You need to send in your log to www.sota.org.uk to claim your points. You can only claim each summit once in each calendar year.

You can also contact ZS1AN, ZS1KG, ZS1PT, ZS4BS, ZS5IAN, ZS6ACT or ZS6DX for more information.

Sid, ZS6AYC, Thomas, ZS6TMO, Lucas, ZS6ACT and Detlev, ZS6BAB, all members of the Secunda Amateur Radio Club, intend to activate Platberg FS-004 near Harrismith on 5 February. They will try to call from 9:30 on 7,065 MHz and 14,160 MHz AMSAT NA PRESIDENT CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO WORK ON PROJECT EAGLE

On the SARL Intecnet last Sunday AMSAT NA President Rick Hambley called for volunteers to work on Project Eagle, the next major amateur satellite to be built in the USA. He said a chief technical officer and an Engineer to take care of Structural and Thermal design are needed. He said that with modern communications such as the Internet and teleconferencing, distance is no longer a problem. If volunteers can function across the US, they could just as well be any where in the world.

He cited two major problems with amateur satellite projects. The main one is funding. He called on amateurs worldwide to make contributions. The shop on the AMSAT website, www.amsat.org has facilities for amateurs to make their contributions. The other problem is to match the need of users with the need of the satellite designers and builders. Satellite engineers are looking for a new challenge while the user community want more of the same, a satellite that can help you to talk around the world. He urged users to look at the specifications of Project Eagle and make comments.

One of the papers at AMSATCON 2005 will discuss Project Eagle and afford delegate to make their inputs.

The next Intecnet will take on a more operational aspect when the discussion will be on Electronic QSLing. It will be on the air on Sunday 27 February 2005 MARITIME NET For those Hams who are interested in listening to the yachting and boating activity around SA, listen to the South African Maritime Net on the following frequencies: The South African Maritime Net operates 7 days a week, and provides weather reports from around the coast, and maintains contact with boats off the coast of South Africa and up into the Mozambique channel. There are two regular schedule times as follows:

06:30 UTC: Starts on 14 316 kHz for 5 - 10 minutes, and then moves to 7 045 kHz. 11:30 UTC: Starts on 14 316 kHz for approx 30 minutes and then moves down to 7 045 kHz.

For those Hams that would further like to listen to the USA Maritime Mobile Service Net, you can do so by going to www.mmsn.org and click on the "Listen Live" link. Your installed audio streaming software, such as Media Player, will enable you to listen to the live streaming audio off the HF net which is piped into the internet here.

This concept could also be used well for HF and VHF nets in South Africa, and Hams worldwide will be able to listen to the nets via the internet on their computers. ECHOLINK Download Echolink software for FREE from www.echolink.org and connect to +/- 2 700 Ham VHF and HF repeaters worldwide. Use a computer microphone or headset into the computer's sound card to contact Hams all over the world when the HF bands are down. If you can Email from your computer, you can use Echolink as well.

Alternatively, find an Echolink node (repeater or link) in your area and connect to the Echolink system via your VHF radio, type in the node number of the distant DX node on the DTMF keys and talk to Hams, VHF to VHF on the other side of the world, using the internet.

South Africa needs more very inexpensive Echolink nodes set up, just a sound card interface between a computer and a VHF set. CLUB NEWS

EAST RAND FLEA MARKET

The East Rand Radio Club will be hosting a flea market on 05 February 2005 from 09:00 at the clubhouse in Springs.

Tables are R20-00 and bookings can be done with Johanna Harris on tele-phone 011 814 2121. This flea market marks the date of the VHF/UHF Linear Amplifier giveaway. Tickets are still available.

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS This propagation report comes from the ARRL Newsletter. On Friday 21 January, the earth was hit by a big blast of energy from an X7-class solar flare the previous day. The A index went to 61 and the mid-latitude A index was 30. A severe geomagnetic storm lasted the next couple of days, but conditions really calmed down from Monday to Thursday. On Wednesday 26 January, the mid-latitude A index went clear

down to zero because the K index, upon which it is based, was zero during all eight reporting periods. This is incredibly quiet - good for HF propagation, provided the sunspots are there to support it.

We could hope for similar quiet conditions for this weekend's CQ World Wide 160 meter CW Contest, but the forecast does not look that great. The predicted A indices for Friday to Monday, 28 to 31 January, are 15, 30, 20 and 20. This isn't due to any flare activity, but Earth is about to move into a solar wind stream, and the most active conditions are expected on 29 January. Conditions should be back to quiet by 3 February. DIARY OF EVENTS

31 January - Closing date for the Tinus Lange 7066 Award nominations; 05 February East Rand RC Flea market; 10 February Submit synopsis of proposed papers for AMSATCON2005; 12 February - RTA lecture at the NARC at 10:00; 12 and 13 February SARL HF Field Day; 31 March - Submit final papers for AMSATCON2005; closing date for part 1 of the 2005 Construction Competition; 08 April - SARL Awards Dinner; 09 April - SARL AGM; 14 May - AMSATCON2005.

The SARL invites you to listen on Sundays at 10:00 to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 700, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and many 2 m repeaters in different areas. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX